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The Treasure State's

Picks and Pans

BOOK REVIEWS K-12

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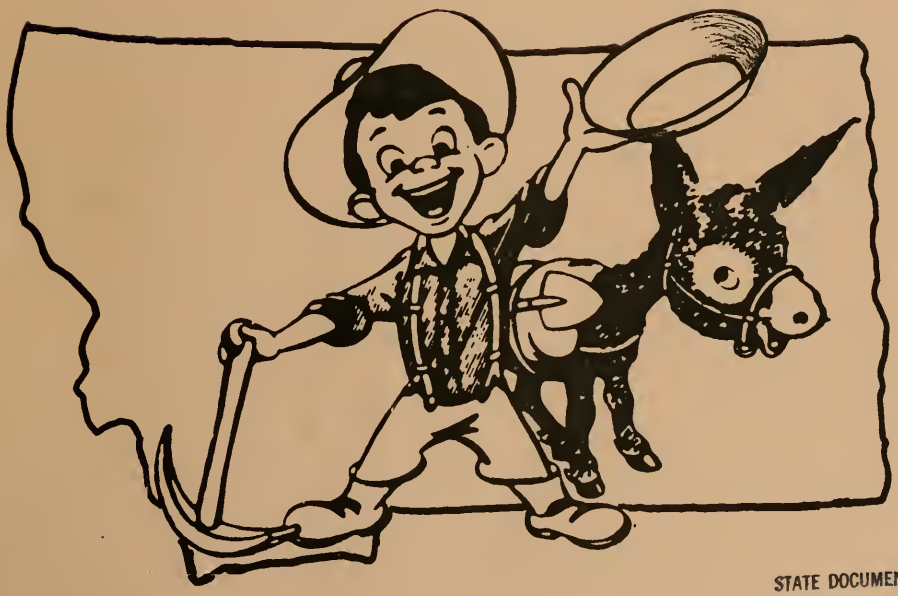

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Introduction

"The Treasure State's Picks and Pans" is a collection of book reviews, written by Montanans (library media specialists, teachers, parents, and Office of Public Instruction personnel), comprehensive for grades K-12.

The Book Review Network was formed in the fall of 1981 by soliciting volunteers. The reviewers are representative of all sizes of schools and from all parts of the state.

"Picks and Pans" should not be accepted as an approved or recommended buying guide published by the Office of Public Instruction. That is not its purpose. This project was designed to give Montanans the opportunity to see how other Montanans evaluate new works.

Also, the works reviewed are not representative of all publishing houses. We are, however, pleased to acknowledge those publishing houses who generously contribute complimentary copies for review.

Below is a key to the format used in writing and reporting the reviews.

Bibliographic Information
Rating Code
- 1 - first choice for purchase
- 2 - second choice for purchase
- 3 - mediocre— questionable because of makeup, binding, level, price, etc.
- NR - not recommended

Suggested grade level
Suggested interest level
Reviewer's comments
Reviewer's initials

BL12282

Reviewing Network Members

EA Elizabeth Alme
AB Anne Bagley
AB Arlis Bidwell
LB Lila Bock
CB Cheri Bergeron
LC Linda Christiansen
MC Marie Colbo
NC Nancy Collins
JD Jo Mae Drake
KF Katherine Field
JG Judi Grossi
CH Curt Hahn
VH Verna Hansen
SJ Sheri Johnson
AL Ann Lingel
LL Lois Lorash
GL Grace Lucas
JM Jeanne Malex
CM Carole Monlux
TM Theo Morton
JN Jean Nielsen
MP Martha Parrish
AP Arlie Patton
AP Alice Pierce
EP Eva Pilling
SR Sally Radtke
TR Tempie Ray
SR Sandra Robbins
RS Rita Schmidt
MS Marilyn Shore
JS Judith Snow
PS Pam Sommer
CW Carol Wiget

Adams, Adrienne. *A Halloween Happening.* Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981. $10.90.

1 And what a happening it was! Frightening tower, delicious toad tarts, breathtaking trips into the night
1-3 gl sky. Vibrant illustrations help Ms. Adams transport readers young or old into a child's wildest Hallow-
1-3 il een fantasy—a party sponsored by "honest-to-goodness" witches. A worthwhile addition to the holiday collection. P.S.

Adler, David A. *Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Dinosaur Bones.* Viking Press, 1981. NP.

2 This book will be a hit with most students because it deals with dinosaurs and mystery. Both are favor-
4-5 gl ite book themes with students using my library. The main character, Cam, has a photographic mind.
4-5 il Because of her memory she is able to discover three bones are missing from a museum dinosaur skeleton while she is on a fifth grade field trip. Cam and her friend Eric try to report the theft, but when they get no satisfaction from the museum director, they start doing their own detective work. A rousing chase and solving the mystery add interest and enjoyment to the book. From my experience the binding is poor for library usage because the cover is not strong enough. The binding brought down the overall rating. A.B.

Adler, David A. *Mystery of the Television Dog.* Viking Press, 1981. $6.95.

1 Cam Jansen has a photographic memory—hence her nickname "the Camera." In the *Mystery of the*
2-5 gl *Television Dog,* fourth in a series, she uses her ability to rescue a kidnapped dog. This book could be
1-5 il used along with practice in listening and looking for details. It has a moral: it pays to pay attention. J.N.

Ahlberg, Janet and Allen. *Peek-A-Boo.* Viking Press, 1981. NP.

1 The Ahlbergs illustrate a day in the life of Baby in this picture book based upon the well known child-
PS-1 gl hood game. Just as in the game, the sparse text invites the reader to peek through holes in the facing
PS-1 il pages and share Baby's view of family life. The cluttered illustrations allow for discussion such as the naming of objects, listing of actions and locating of items. The book is an interesting way to encourage language development. It is an excellent "lap" book for parents. P.S.

Alth, Max and Charlotte. *Disastrous Hurricanes and Tornadoes.* Franklin Watts, 1981. NP.

1 Beginning with early beliefs about winds and weather, this book goes on to explain the winds
4-8 gl of the earth and how they affected and still affect people and weather. An explanation of hurricanes
4-8 il and tornadoes is followed by that of the disastrous impact they have had through modern times. Weather prophets and scientific predictions depend on accurate observations that are explained further. The last topic covered is seeking safety from hurricanes and tornadoes. Table of contents, index and a number of clear, dramatic photographs enhance this up-to-date book. E.P.

Ardley, Neil *Out into Space.* Franklin Watts, 1981. NP.

1 Each page is colorfully illustrated and very stimulating. There are 16 chapters, each about four pages
6-12 gl long, covering topics from training in space to interstellar art. The book has been needed to illuminate
6-12 il our young readers' minds in space travel and living in the future. Very good 6th grade readers could handle the vocabulary. The illustrations would stimulate 4th and 5th grade levels. The glossary and index enhance the book. J.D.

Arnold, Caroline. *Sun Fun.* Franklin Watts, 1981. NP.

1 An easy-to-read activity book. Projects that use energy from the sun are given, with directions on how
2-3 gl to do them. It tells how to make a sun clock, shadow puppets, a sun visor, sun prints, how to watch a
2-4 il solar eclipse, and how to cook with the sun. G.L.

Baker, Betty. *Rat is Dead and Ant is Sad.* Harper & Row, 1981. $7.89.

1 This story is based on a Pueblo Indian tale. The rat falls into a pot and is thought to be dead. The ant, of
PS-3 gl course, is very sad and begins to spread the news. Everything is affected by the news of the rat's death
PS-3 il until the horse decides to check into the pot. He finds something that puts a stop to all the misery. Primary students will love reading this story and following the pictures through to the end. S.R.

Berger, Melvin. *Disastrous Volcanoes (A First Book).* Franklin Watts, 1981. NP.

3 Discusses the origins and types of volcanoes, focusing on the eruptions of Paricutin, Vesuvius,
4-6 gl Krakatoa, Mont Pelee and Mt. St. Helens. *The First Book of Volcanoes and Earthquakes* (Watts, 1972)
4-6 il has a much better coverage of the causes and effects of volcanoes. The black and white photographs are of poor quality and the chapter on Mt. St. Helens is disappointing. Purchase only if you need information on the volcanic eruptions mentioned. C.W.

Berman, Sharon L. *With a Face Like Mine You Need Personality.* Richard W. Baron Pub. Co., 1981. $8.95.

1 The title accurately describes Raina-Ann Trevor's self-image. For Raina-Ann, life in a small southern
9-12 gl town in 1939 is dull until a sophisticated child actress moves into the house next door. Raina-Ann
9-12 il and Arielle become close friends and accidentally set a barn on fire. They pay for the damage by presenting a play. In the course of the book, Raina-Ann begins to like herself. Although the story stresses the awkwardness of adolescence, it has a happy ending with everything in place—Raina-Ann is ready to accept her new stepmother, her brother and aunt seem to care about her, she finally has a best friend, and she even has a boyfriend. It's sure to be popular with the happily-ever-after set. J.S.

Bishop, Ann. *Annie O'Kay's Riddle Roundup.* Elsevier/Nelson Books, 1981. $8.25.

3 This is a book of riddles and jokes based on Western folklore. Children enjoy riddle books, but many of
2-5 gl the puns used in this riddle book are too subtle and complex to be thoroughly enjoyed by the 7-10 year
2-5 il old, e.g., "What did Wild Bill say when the cattle started mooing? I HERD you." Also, the answers to the riddles are located at the bottom of the same page, but with three, four or more questions listed consecutively. It is confusing for me to locate the correct answer out of the list of answers, so it would definitely be difficult for a 7-8 year old. The cartoon-like illustrations are not particularly eye-catching. This is, in my opinion, not a first priority riddle book. M.C.

Bishop, Ann. *Cleo Catra's Riddle Book.* Elsevier/Nelson, 1981. $6.95.

1 This book contains riddles about the title cat, King Tut, Egypt, famous cats, and just plain cats. Stu-
2-3 gl dents will enjoy the puns. The riddles are on the top of the page, and the answers are at the bottom of
2-5 il the page in a gold band. An example of a riddle from the book is, "What do you name a camel that has no humps? Humpfree." The illustrations are in three colors and are related to one of the riddles on the page. There are approximately 20 pages in the book. A.B.

Boegehold, Betty. *Chipper's Choices.* Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, Inc., 1981. NP.

1 Chipper's Choices is a combination of five little stories told by Chipper for his friends to read on long
2-3 gl winter nights. He also includes some riddles and jokes. This book with its delightful illustrations and
2-3 il easy-to-read language will captivate young readers. M.B.

Boegehold, Betty. *In the Castle of Cats.* E.P. Dutton, 1981. $10.25.

1 If this book is to be used with a younger child, it will have to be read to them. Some words are beyond
2-3 gl the ability of younger children. The illustrations are lovely and add very much to the short tale of
1-5 il imaginary kingdoms of cats. The price is too high; my school could not affort it. J.D.

Bostrom, Roald. *Cameras (A Look Inside Book).* Raintree, 1981. NP.

1 A simple, accurate introduction to photography for the beginner. Students with a more avid interest in
2-5 gl the subject will find it lacking in the "how to," for this is not the purpose of the text. Instead, it gives a
2-5 il brief history of the camera, describes the parts and kinds of cameras and illustrates how film is developed. The richly colored detailed drawings help illustrate the concepts presented. An interesting addition is the historical photographs which introduce each chapter. The book includes a glossary with a helpful pronunciation guide and an index of the text and of the photographers discussed. Highly recommended and it will certainly encourage youngsters to investigate the field further. C.W.

Boyar, Jay. *Be a Magician.* Julian Messner, 1981. NP.

2 This book is a complete and sequential book of magic. It explains the effect that a magician wants to
13-18 gl portray and then the tricks needed to obtain that effect. The chapters are short enough as to not be
9-12 il overwhelming to upper elementary students and the live photographs add appeal. This would be a worthwhile edition for 12-14 year-olds, but too difficult for the average 9-11 year-old. M.C.

Breitner, Sue. *The Bookseller's Advice.* Viking Press, 1981. $8.95.

1 Excellent and appealing illustrations. The book would acquaint children with the bookseller of early
2-3 gl times. The bookseller, Simon, is often asked advice; however, he is an older man and is hard of hearing.
2-3 il Because he doesn't hear the questions correctly, he doesn't always give the advice he should. Humor is brought to the story because of the mixed up advice he gives. A story for pleasure reading that all should enjoy. C.M.

Brenner, Barbara. *Mystery of the Plumed Serpent.* Alfred A. Knopf, 1981. NP.

2 This story has a plot that would entice youngsters who are turned on to mystery and detective stories.
2-5 gl It could also be used for reading with a study of the ancient civilizations of Mexico and the artifacts
2-5 il that have been discovered there. It could be used as a forerunner for a research on the treasures of the Aztecs in particular. The vocabulary will not give the intermediate level student any problems. The plot of the story moves right along and holds the interest. It is also a good book to use to combat the stereotyping of ethnic groups of our society; in this book, the Mexican-American. This story includes animals, which always are appealing. The children outwit the adults—another popular theme. I would certainly buy the book if the binding were better. The binding and cover will not hold up with use. The brother in the story is the more serious, intelligent, and responsible one. His twin sister is the more light-hearted one and leans on her brother for responsibility. This may displease Title IX advocates, but I think that the role of the twins is in keeping with the Mexican-American culture. M.P.

Brodeur, Ruth. *One April Vacation.* Atheneum, 1981. $8.95.

1 One of the very best stories that I have read in a long time concerning death. Kate is like many
4-8 gl teenagers and shares a real fear. I feel that a large percentage of adults have these fears also. All
4-12 il libraries should have this book. L.L.

Bulla, Clyde Robert. *A Lion To Guard Us.* Thomas Y. Crowell, 1981. $9.89.

1
4-8 gl
4-8 il

This book gives an insight into the early colonial history of England and the United States. It is told from the viewpoint of the oldest Freebold child, Amanda, and the characters are courageous, poignant, and realistic. As a teacher I would recommend this book for supplemental reading in the study of U.S. History, Colonial Period. It is a book that could open up a lot of discussion from a human interest standpoint of a remote period of history. It is a very readable book and one that holds the interest of the reader to the end. It can be recommended for the upper levels for the student who has difficulty reading. The sentences are fairly short and easily understood with a not too difficult vocabulary. It has a vocabulary that is varied and rich. The story line is not condescending to the reader. There is one typing/printing mistake in the book, on page 87. The third sentence on that page reads: "The moved away from the harbor where the sun beat down on the sand." I would have liked for the book to have been longer so that some of the characters in the story could have been better developed. This aspect of the book disturbed me as an adult reader, and I felt that this was sacrificed for the story line. It is a very readable book with larger than average print on a non-glare paper. M.P.

Burchard, Marshall. *Ron Guidry.* G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1981. NP.

2
4-5 gl
4-8 il

This book traces the life and career of Ron Guidry. It shows a real life of hard work and perserverance. A well-written biography; large print. My fifth grade students enjoyed reading about him but it was during the World Series. G.L.

Callen, Larry. *Dashiel and the Night.* E.P. Dutton, 1981. $9.

2
2-3 gl
PS-1 il

This story is about a child who is afraid of the dark and wants to overcome his fears. Because of a dream about the fireflies, Dashiel has the idea to try to catch and train fireflies. However, his trip into the dark forest brings an unexpected understanding of the dark. Suddenly "the night is not as fearful as it seems," and it becomes his friend. Because of page text length, the story would have to be read to children below second grade. Black and white illustrations accompany text. The book contains 30 pages and the binding is reinforced. A.B.

Calvert, Patricia. *The Money Creek Mare.* Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981. NP.

1
4-8 gl
6-12 il

This is a horse story of a 15-year-old girl who runs a diner and takes care of a younger brother and sister. It has high interest and good vocabulary for the junior high level. There is good humor and tender-heartedness. The book is 16 chapters, 135 pages, with no illustrations. J.D.

Cameron, Ann. *The Stories Julian Tells.* Pantheon Books, 1981. NP.

1
2-8 gl
2-8 il

This book contains five humorous stories about two brothers and a very understanding father. There is a strong element of Bill Cosby and his brother Russell in these stories, if you have ever heard Bill Cosby's record To My Brother Russell With Love. Children can easily identify with these youngsters and with mischief they get into. It is a delightful book with delightful illustrations, both done with a great deal of imagination and understanding of children. The vocabulary is easy to follow and understand. This book would appeal to children of the intermediate grades and could be readily used by a teacher for reluctant readers, slow readers, problem readers. The print is large enough to be easily read even with eyesight problems. The paper is good quality and the binding is good. However, the book cover is one that I do not like. This kind of cover tears and soils easily. I wish the book cover had been of better quality to match the story, the illustrations, and the paper on which they are printed. This book could be used in many ways in a school library: understanding of races; as bibliotherapy; as a skit in a drama situation, etc. M.P.

Clifton, Lucille. *Sonora Beautiful.* E.P. Dutton, 1981. $8.25.

3
6-8 gl
6-8 il

Sonora Beautiful is the touching story of a girl unhappy about her appearance, her name, her home and her family's life style. The family goes for a walk, reads poetry, kiss and hug, and Sonora realizes they have a beautiful life. Lucille Clifton touches on emotions that all children go through during adolescence but her story reverses itself too abruptly. Children would be more receptive to a gradual change of heart. Sonora's family gives the reader a glimpse of a different life style—a poet's family. L.C.

Climo, Shirley. *Piskies, Spriggans, and Other Magical Beings.* Thomas Y. Crowell, 1981. $8.79.

1
4-8 gl
All il

This book is a collection of folktales from Cornwall. It is a book that can be interesting to children or adults who are concerned with folklore. Before each story is information on the particular magical creature one is about to read of and after each story is advice on how to deal with these creatures; just in casel Although there are but a few illustrations, they are quite good and make the stories "come to life." S.R.

Corbett, Scott. *The Deadly Hoax.* E.P. Dutton, 1981. $9.25.

2
4-6 gl
4-6 il

Take 17 year-old Sid and Morgan, both computer buffs and skeptical about some of the recent UFO sightings in town. Add the destruction of a nuclear power plant and the appearance of aliens from outer space who turn out to be ant mutations, and you have an action packed science fiction adventure. The story begins in an intriguing mode but as it unfolds it loses some of its plausability, even for science fiction, and the ending leaves the reader wishing the story was more fully developed. But the enticing book jacket and short length will cause students to snatch it up. Note: Although written for grades five and up, the author sprinkles it with words that 10 year-olds will find difficult to understand (epigram, detritus, aphorism). However, neither the story line nor the understanding of the plot are affected. C.W.

Couper, Heather and Terence Murtagh. *Heavens Above: A Beginner's Guide to our Universe.* Franklin Watts, 1981. NP.

1
5-9 gl
5-9 il

Excellent photographs, illustrations and charts make this a good choice if you are updating your astronomy and space collection. The reader is taken on a fictional journey through the planetary system; through an explanation of how the sun and its planets were formed; and a look at how space affects our earth. Includes a bibliography of books and observatories and planetariums in Great Britain (the book was printed in Great Britain) and the United States. Younger students will enjoy and learn from the pictures and upper elementary will find the text especially appealing and interesting. C.W.

Cunningham, Julia. *The Silent Voice.* E.P. Dutton, 1981. $10.75.

1
6-12 gl
6-12 il

The Silent Voice is an excellent true-to-life fiction story. The main character, Auguste, is an orphan and a mute who is befriended by a group of street children. He is introduced to a master mime who recognizes a special talent in the young mute and takes him under his wing. This is one of the best books I have ever read. Intermediate and upper grade students should find this a most enjoyable reading experience. S.R.

Curtis, Patricia. *Cindy—A Hearing Ear Dog.* E.P. Dutton, 1981. $10.25.

1
PS-8 gl
All il

Because hearing dogs are so new to the public, this book could be used by most any grade level. A very detailed explanation and real photos are given to show the progression of a dog's training. The deaf girl in the book is a teenager, so teens could relate to the story too. L.L.

Dahl, Ronald. *The Twits.* Alfred A. Knopf, 1981. NP.

3
4-5 gl
4-5 il

I hated this book. However, I'm anxious to see what kids, especially boys, think of it. In fact, I can hardly wait to see how kids react. L.B.

Dahl, Ronald. *The Twits.* Alfred A. Knopf, 1981. NP.

2
4-5 gl
4-5 il

The story satisfies descriptions of revenge. I feel there are original, creative, humorous descriptions and conversations that relate to real life and should entertain children. The questionable elements of alcohol consumption, destruction and revenge are an integral part of the theme or message. However, I would question having children read an entire book based on problems, revenge and destruction. The binding, layout and type are good; illustrations appropriate. E.A.

DeClements, Barthe. *Nothing's Fair in Fifth Grade.* Viking Press, 1981. $8.95.

1
4-6 gl
4-8 il

This is the story of a fat girl's struggle in a new school and the girl who grows in understanding by being her friend. It is an honest story of interest to children in their pre-teens. The problem solving is realistic. The jacket painting by Kathy Krantz would sell the book. J.D.

Degens, T. *Friends.* Viking Press, 1981. $9.95.

1
6-8 gl
6-8 il

This one of the very few children's books set against the background of the Vietnam War as seen from the U.S.—the protests, the daily news reports. Against this background, Nell Atwood struggles with her mother's desertion and her father's depression as well as the typical concerns of a sixth-grade girl—most notably her teacher. Through it all she maintains her relationships with her friends, but it is the support and special friendship of 18 year-old Gene, recently drafted and not sure how he feels about it, that is most helpful. *Friends* would probably appeal to the older kids among Judy Blume's readership. M.S.

Delton, Judy. *Groundhog's Day at the Doctor.* Parents Magazine Press, 1981. $5.95.

2
2-3 gl
2-3 il

This is a humorous story about Groundhog who wakes up a day early for Groundhog's Day and goes to the doctor to see why he feels tired and looks pale. While waiting for the doctor to arrive, he dispenses his own medical advice to other patients. By the time the doctor arrives, Groundhog is the only remaining patient and they go skiing. Children will enjoy this humorous story. The illustrations are colorf and attractive and will appeal to children. The binding and print are excellent for young readers. L.C.

Edmonds, I.G. *The Mysteries of Homer's Greeks.* Elsevier/Nelson Books, 1981. $10.95.

2
6-8 gl
6-12 il

Edmonds provides a readable introduction to the archaeological works of Heinrich Schliemann and those who followed him. Schliemann believed the writings of Homer to be factual accounts of Greek history; using passages from the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey,* Edmonds shows how Schliemann made his excavations in Troy and Mycenae following the clues written 2800 years ago. In giving a brief description of the treasures uncovered, the author supplies a survey of classical mythology and the hero tales of Greece. This book could very well provide young readers with the impetus to read the works of Homer and delve into the mythology of the area. The book includes a table of contents, chronology, bibliography, index, and map photographs. S.R.

Ellis, Joyce K. *Snowmobile Trap.* Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1981. $3.95.
NR — Stacy Benson had convinced herself that trespassing on "old man Ricker's" property wasn't wrong.
4-5 gl — After all, he mistreated Cinder, the beautiful black horse that she loved and wanted. But Stacy's single-
4-5 il — minded desire to own Cinder, her compelling need to impress a rich classmate, and her thoughtless, derring-do exploits with friend and neighbor Ryan Daugherty snowball into near death and tragedy before Stacy realizes that the words "I'm sorry" are not the giant eraser she once thought. It is Stacy's struggle to come to terms with "I want" and "I should" that forms the major part of the story. The moralistic tone with which this struggle is described makes the book more suitable for home or church libraries. M.S.

Emert, Phyllis Raybin. *Jane Frederick Pentathlon Champion.* Harvey House, 1981. NP.
1 — This book traces the life of an athlete from her first encounters with the five-event sport to the 1980
6-8 gl — Olympic trials. Financial and physical difficulties as well as triumphs are explained. The example of
4-12 il — someone competing for personal satisfaction should be an inspiration to all young athletes. J.N.

Fichter, George. *Disastrous Fires.* Franklin Watts, 1981. NP.
1 — An excellent book to use during Fire Prevention Week for most any age group. It shows different kinds
6-9 gl — of fires and tells how they started and the kinds of damage that resulted. It also tells how fire codes
2-3 il — have been improved because of dangerous building materials. L.L.

Fichter, George S. *The Space Shuttle.* Franklin Watts, 1981. NP.
1 — This is a non-fiction science book concerned with space travel from the time of the first airplane flight
4-8 gl — to the launching and touchdown of the Columbia. This book deals primarily with all aspects of the
4-8 il — space shuttle: construction, flights and future plans. The photographs are quite good and have captions to aid for better understanding. A table of contents and index are included. Although *The Space Shuttle* is for intermediate students, it may be used by the teacher of lower grades as oral reading. Because of the recent flight of the Shuttle, most all children will be interested in this book. S.R.

Fisher, Leonard Everett. *The Newspapers.* Holiday House, 1981. $7.95.
1 — An excellent addition to the series on "Nineteenth Century America" which discusses the history of
4-8 gl — newspapers in the U.S. from the colonial printing press used in the early 19th century to the formation
4-8 il — of the William Randolph Hearst newspaper/magazine empire. Also discusses how the role of the newspaper changed as the population, education and frontiers expanded by paralleling the history of the newspaper text with information on the history of the growth of the U.S. Attractive pen and ink drawings supplement the informative comprehensive text. Excellent for history, journalism or mass media study. C.W.

Fleischman, Sid. *The Cackling Ghost (The Bloodhound Gang).* Random House, 1981. NP.
2 — This is a good easy-to-read mystery. Most children will enjoy this story. The quality of the binding is
3-4 gl — mediocre. Mrs. Fairbanks hires the Bloodhound Gang to help solve the mystery of the cackling ghost
2-5 il — who appears in her garden. The curse on her famous Darjeeling necklace seems to be coming true! C.C.

Fleischman, Sid. *The Case of Princess Tomorrow.* Random House, 1981. NP.
1 — A mystery based on the television show "3-2-1 Contact." The Bloodhound Gang made up of young
4-5 gl — people solve mysteries. Readers do not have to see the show to enjoy the book. My fifth graders en-
4-6 il — joyed it. The story gives clues to the solving of the mystery. It is an absorbing plot; the characters seem real. An easy-to-read book with large print. G.L.

Forman, James D. *Call Back Yesterday.* Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981. NP.
1 — Terrorism is a frightening but timely topic and one handled masterfully by this ALA notable author.
6-12 gl — Cindy is a victim of amnesia in a place unknown to both the reader and Cindy. Her story unfolds
6-9 il — gradually and painfully as Dr. Harper helps her piece together her memory. What unfolds is a story of romance combined with an explosive political situation. Cindy is the sole survivor of the terrorist takeover of the American Embassy in Saudi Arabia. Why she is the sole survivor and why the violent climax takes place are questions only Cindy can answer. In a style similar to Cormier's, this one is suspenseful and spellbinding. I couldn't put it down and I don't think your readers will either. C.W.

Freedman, Ryssell. *When Winter Comes.* Dutton, 1981. $8.25.
1 — This is a very fine quality non-fiction book for primary readers which introduces the concepts of hiber-
2-5 gl — nation and migration. The vocabulary and sentence structuring are designed for early readers, and the
1-3 il — pencil sketch drawings are very beautiful in their realistic simplicity. Certainly this book could be used with science studies, and is interesting and attractive enough for the motivated independent reader. If a given collection needs material in this area, this book is recommended, and it would complement Hader's *The Big Snow.* N.C.

Freschet, Berniece. *Black Bear Baby.* G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1981. NP.
1 — Good account of the life of a black bear cub. The book is especially good concerning the early life of
2-3 gl — cub as it tells size, etc. The book also deals with adventures the cubs have, what they eat and like,
PS-1 il — and what happens when they encounter other bears. The illustrations are appealing and I feel it is a worthwhile book on the subject of bears. The book would be useful for animal units. It is a "see and read" book. C.M.

Fritz, Jean. *The Man Who Loved Books.* Putnam, 1981. $8.95.

1 This is a very readable version of the legend of Saint Columbia of Ireland, who lived around 500 A.D.
2-5 gl More than his practices as a man of God, this story provides a glimpse of the way things were when
2-5 il books first became available to people, who had for centuries relied on story and song for entertainment and history. Hyman's illustrations are a perfectly suited match to the style and quality of the story, and intimate the ornate style of early manuscripts as well as of woodprints. This title might well be used in conjunction with social studies or history units, and would certainly intrigue avid readers. N.C.

Gates, Frieda. *North American Indian Crafts.* Harvey House, 1981. NP.

1 Very informative on how to make a wide variety of Indian crafts—everything from a simple teepee
5-8 gl to easy pottery, including homemade clay recipes. C.C.
4-8 il

Gelman, Rita Golden and Susan Kovacs Buxbaum. *Boats That Float.* Franklin Watts, 1981. NP.

2 The directions are very simple and easy for small children to follow, which is a plus for this book.
2-4 gl There are interesting rainy day projects for children. There are also good art projects for elementary
PS-4 il teachers of grades K-4. Easy instructions on 11 toy boats that float with easy-to-follow illustrations. C.C.

Goffstein, M.B. *Brookie and Her Lamb.* Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2d ed., 1981. NP.

2 A picture book with one-line captions about a lamb that could not learn to read or sing—but the little
PS-1 gl girl loved him anyway. "Not everyone can learn to do everything, but each can achieve excellence in
PS-1 il their own way" is the message of this book. G.L.

Graham, Ada and Frank. *The Changing Desert.* Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981. NP.

1 This is a beautifully illustrated book and can be used in science, history, or language. It could also be
gl used as a reference book for information on the desert. I feel all libraries should purchase this book.
3-12 il L.L.

Grahame, Kenneth. *Wayfarers All.* Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981. NP.

1 This is the complete chapter from *The Wind in the Willows.* The Water Rat is momentarily caught up in
4-5 gl the spell of the wayfarer's tale and is determined to go south. The illustrations by Beverley Gooding
4-8 il are beautiful and give life to the animal characters. Children can visualize living in the country. L.C.

Haas, Irene. *The Little Moon Theater.* Worzalla Publishing Co., 1981. NP.

1 This is a humorous fiction story with animals for some of the characters. Jo Jo, Jip and Nicolette, the
2-5 gl traveling players of the Little Moon Theater, roam the countryside entertaining everyone. They help
2-5 il friends along the way by granting their wishes. This interferes with a fairy who is trying to grant the same wishes. The outcome is delightful. Upper primary children will enjoy reading this and lower primary children will enjoy listening to the story. Everyone will enjoy the water color illustrations. S.R.

Hall, Lynn. *Danza.* Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981. NP.

1 Paulo, a Puerto Rican boy, raised a Paso Fino colt, Danza, into a fine show horse. However, his negli-
6-8 gl gence allows the horse to drink cold water after being overheated. The resulting fever almost destroys
6-8 il the fine horse and Paulo. An American takes Danza and Paulo to the U.S. to see if he can make possible a recovery and then use the horse for breeding and showing. Misfortune happens when the American wants to win shows by allowing dishonest methods used by a trainer other than Paulo. However, the story has a happy ending when Paulo is able to remove his grandfather's horse from the care of these people and to ride Danza to the American Grand National Classic Fino Stallion Class Championship. Forced to leave the competition because of incomplete healing of his injuries, Danza returns to Puerto Rico to be sire of the family herd. Students liking horse stories will like this book. The book contains 186 pages. A.B.

Hahn, James and Lynn. *Thorpe! The Sports Career of James Thorpe.* Crestwood House, 1981. $6.95.

1 Beginning with an attention getting statement, this brief narrative of Jim Thorpe's life tells of the per-
3-8 gl sonal and professional victories and defeats in his life. It emphasizes his athletic ability, concern for
4-8 il young people and for the Native Americans. The reader "knows" and likes him. Those interested in sports or modern (1888-1953) Indians would find not only a feeling for Jim Thorpe, but also the background of some Indians who lived on reservations. Students who read this wanted know if I had others like it. There is no index or bibliography. The paperback format is sturdy. There are many good photographs. E.P.

Hahn, James and Lynn. *Zaharias! The Sports Career of Mildred Zaharias.* Crestwood House, 1981. $5.95.

2 This is a concise, well-written, straightforward biography of an outstanding American athlete. Stu-
4-5 gl dents could use this biography for source material pertaining to a number of subjects relative to the
4-8 il human struggle for identity. The Hahns' biography of Mildred Zaharias should be appreciated by boys as well as girls, and by non-athletes as well as athletes. It is an inspirational book that stresses values which we strive to instill in students. This is a biography which should enhance the school library. V.H.

Haskins, Jim. *Were-Wolves*. Franklin Watts, 1981. NP.

8-12 gl
3-12 il

This is a very interesting book and would be of greater interest to boys. Haskins explains what a were-wolf is and how they got such a bad reputation. Famous movies are discussed, myths from all over the world are told, and he even tells about some "good" werewolves. Best for junior high and high school readers. L.L.

Hasler, Eveline. *Martin Is Our Friend*. Abingdon, 1981. $6.95.

3
2-3 gl
2-3 il

Martin is mentally handicapped and the other children prefer not to play with him. But then he sees a beautiful reddish-brown horse which he and his classmates are allowed to ride. One day he leads the horse back to its corral after it escapes through an open gate and becomes frightened in traffic. Suddenly, "Martin is our friend." The illustrations are attractive and the text easy-to-read, but occasionally disjointed. The book's major flaw, however, is the very simplistic, sudden resolution to Martin's problems in relating to other children. M.S.

Hautzig, Esther. *A Gift for Mama*. Viking Press, 1981. NP.

2
6-8 gl
6-9 il

Such qualities as giving, sharing and loving are shown in this story of a young girl who decides she will earn money and buy her mother a gift for Mother's Day rather than make it. It gives children an insight into customs, foods, and special words of the Jewish people. This book could be used for a lesson on sharing, for Mother's Day, and for a study on cultures. L.L.

Hayes, Phyllis. *Food Fun*. Franklin Watts, 1981. NP.

2
2-3 gl
2-3 il

Food Fun gives directions for several recipes to make food to eat and then gives an activity to do from some of the ingredients. For example, a recipe for garden stew is given, and then following are the directions for making an indoor carrot garden out of the leftover carrot tops. These activities and recipes will appeal to students interested in cooking or activities to do themselves. Directions are clear and numbered. When adult help is needed an * is given. Illustrations are two color. Some of the pages are cluttered with illustrations, which brought down the total rating. There are also a few riddles which will interest students. Metric measurements are given. This is a book in the Easy to Read Activity Book series. It contains 32 pages and a good quality binding. A.B.

Hazen, Barbara Shook. *Even If I Did Something Awful*. Atheneum, 1981. $8.95.

1
2-3 gl
All il

A mother proves how she still loves her daughter even though a favorite vase is broken. The story assures readers that parents love their children regardless of their actions. Young readers will love this humorous but realistic book. Barbara Hazen shows excellent insight into the feelings of a small child afraid to tell her mother about an accident. Large two-tone drawings illustrate the book. The delightful illustrations bring the story to life and will be very appealing to children. Every child should read this book! L.C.

Hearn, Michael Patrick. *Breakfast, Books, and Dreams*. Frederick Warne, 1981. $9.95.

2
2-5 gl
2-5 il

This book of poetry describes the day in the life of a boy and his sister. The poems start from dawn, to breakfast, going to and in school, homework, and dreaming. The poems are written by a number of authors and in a way to interest a variety of age levels. The pictures fit the poems and contain a lot of detail. The brown tones make them less interesting for younger children. S.J.

Higdon, Hal. *The Team that Played in the Space Bowl*. E.P. Dutton, 1981. $9.95.

3
6-8 gl
6-8 il

This latest novel by the author of *The Horse Who Played Center Field* attempts to combine science fiction, sports and humor. Instead the author ends up with a book which is none of the three, confusing to read and disappointing. Elson University had not won a single football game. The leaders of the planet Gann need a victory in their Space Bowl, so they kidnap the Elson squad and their cheerleader mistaking them for an undefeated pro team. This sounds great, but this is where the confusion begins. Their opponents turn out to be robots of great football stars; their cheerleader becomes their coach; and gravity and "ganzone" become their only hopes for victory. The book ends up to be illogical, not very funny and a little bit ridiculous. C.W.

Hill, Helen, Agnes Perkins and Alethea Helbig. *Dusk to Dawn: Poems of the Night*. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1981. $7.89.

4-12 gl
2-12 il

The message of this poetry book is "earthy" and rich in every day experiences.

Hill, Helen, Agnes Perkins and Alethea Helbig. *Dusk to Dawn: Poems of Night*. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1981. $7.89.

1

This is a good selection of sparkling poems. I love the illustrations, especially the frontspiece. I enjoyed the dusk to day name and theme. L.B.

Hiller, Catherine. *Abracatabby*. Coward, McCann and Geoghegan, 1981. NP.

1
1-4 gl
1-6 il

This shows a very close friendship between a boy and his cat; the faith of a young child in something he believes in, regardless of what the others around him may think. This could be read to young children or read by them. The illustrations are very good and really fit the story. L.L.

Hirsh, Marilyn. *The Tower of Babel*. Holiday House, 1981. $6.95.

1
2-5 gl
All il

This book tells the story of the Tower of Babel, the Biblical explanation for the origin of languages. The illustrations show people of many races and cultures working together. It could be best used in religious classes or libraries, possibly to discuss the importance of communication for cooperation. J.N.

Hodgman, Ann and Rudy Djabbaroff. *Skystars: The History of Women in Aviation.* Atheneum, 1981. $11.95.
2 This book is just what the title implies. Each chapter recounts the life of an early woman flier and in-
9-12 gl cludes her idiosyncrasies and attributes. An index is provided as well as occasional black and white
9-12 il photographs. This book would add variety to a collection but is not a "must." K.F.

Hoobler, Dorothy and Thomas. *An Album of the Seventies.* Franklin Watts, 1981. NP.
1 From "All in the Family" to Watergate—the problems, personalities and events of the 70's are briefly
5-9 gl covered in this historical summary of that decade which, after reading, makes us wonder how we ever
5-9 il survived! Good for browsing or as a reminder of key topics for further study. Text is easy to read and pictures are interesting and appealing, as are all of the books in the Watts "Picture Album" series. Excellent for both upper elementary and high school students. C.W.

Houston, James. *Long Claws: An Arctic Adventure.* Atheneum, 1981. NP.
2 This is an exciting adventure story of how two children conquer snow, cold and a bear to save their
4-5 gl family from starving. The lives of the family members depend on the two children. Not until the last
4-5 il page do we find out if their journey and the risking of their lives actually saves the family. S.J.

Jacobs, Francine. *Barracuda—Tiger of the Sea.* Walker & Company, 1981. $7.95.
1 This book reads like poetry, but it is full of scientific information. The book describes the barracuda's
2-5 gl habitat, method of predation, life cycle, defense mechanisms, and its symbiotic relationship with the
PS-8 il goby fish. The pictures and text would make a great filmstrip. J.N.

Katz, Judith A. *The Business of Show Business.* Barnes and Noble, 1981. $11.50.
2 Judith Katz' book is subtitled "A Guide to Career Opportunities Behind the Scenes in Theatre and Film"
9-12 gl and that is a pretty accurate description. Ms. Katz begins with a brief overview of the theatre and film
9-12 il world, defines various careers/jobs, and then tells the stories of individuals who have had successful careers in each field. The career profiles are interesting and well-written, but the job descriptions are predictably dry. The book will have a very limited readership, particularly in non-urban areas, but for high school students truly interested in a show business career, it would appear to be a good choice. M.S.

Keller, Beverly. *Fiona's Flea.* Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, Inc., 1981. NP.
3 Children who enjoy animals will enjoy reading *Fiona's Flea.* Fiona would rather play with a flea-bitten
2-3 gl stray dog than go to the circus. With the help of Howard, the only one of her friends who tries to under-
2-3 il stand, Fiona not only finds the dog a home but gets the fleas a job. The text and print are appropriate for primary readers. The illustrations are very appealing and illustrate the story very well. L.C.

Kesselman, Judi R. and Franklynn Peterson. *I Can Use Tools.* Elsevier/Nelson, 1981. $6.25.
1 This book gives clear instructions (with beautifully precise illustrations) on how to use basic tools. Any-
4-5 gl one could build a birdhouse after reading this book. Safety rules and proper use of tools could be taught
2-8 il with this book. J.N.

Krahn, Fernando. *Arthur's Adventure in the Abandoned House.* E.P. Dutton, 1981. $8.25.
2 This wordless picture book is a "good guys vs. bad guys" adventure story. Little Arthur goes exploring
PS-2 gl through an old, abandoned house and discovers a gangsters' hideout and their hostage. There's
PS-3 il trouble, but the story takes a turn when Arthur's quick, resourceful thinking saves the day and all is well in the end. The black and white drawings are very good in detail and facial expression, creating the mood of the story and conveying the characters' emotions. It is well done, exciting yet innocent in tone. Suitable for ages 5-9. J.M.

Krensky, Stephen. *The Witching Hour.* Atheneum, 1981. $9.95.
3 The story evolves around the Wynd family who all possess some kind of magical power. Alison Wynd,
4-5 gl the oldest daughter, gets her first job at an inn and discovers a coven of witches having a convention.
4-5 il The coven's plan during the convention includes something sinister for all children trick-or-treating on Halloween night, the last night of the convention. One humorous event follows another with each cantation. However, Alison proves to be a more clever witch and uses her powers for good instead of evil. She and her family foil the plans of the coven and the world is safe for another year at the close of the story. K.F.

Lang, Andrew. (retold) *Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp.* Viking Press, 1981. $10.95.
1 This is the classic Persian tale of a boy who finds the genie of the ring and the genie of the lamp. He
4-8 gl uses their powers to rescue a princess from the evil magician. This is a big book with full-page color
All il illustrations. It can be read over and over. J.N.

Lee, Betsy. *Judy Blume's Story.* Dillon Press, 1981. $8.95.
3 The author "reveals all" about this number one children's author. From such "startling" facts as the
4-5 gl name of Judy's first overdue library book (*Madeline*); to the nickname she called her father (Doey); to
4-5 il her first kiss ("It was a quickie, but it was her first kiss."). A one word summary for this one is "boring." This time I hope the kids don't buy it. You might be tempted, but only if your circulation needs a boost. C.W.

Levine, Caroline Anne. *Snow Fun.* Franklin Watts, 1981. NP.
1
2-3 gl
2-3 il
This activity book describes 22 activities using snow. Some are very good for indoor and out-door school activities. Others are more appropriate for home use. Directions are given in paragraph form. Print is large and clear enough to be easily read by students in the grades intended. Illustrations are in three colors and are attractive. This book is in the Easy To Read Activity Book series. There are 32 pages in the book and the binding is good quality. A.B.

Levine, Mindy N. *New York's Other Theater—A Guide to Off Off Broadway.* Avon Books, 1981. $4.50.
1
9-12 gl
9-12 il
If you are looking for a concise but complete guide to the theaters and their neighborhoods off Broadway in New York City, this is an excellent choice. The neighborhoods are described, the theaters are listed, and a map with bus and subway directions is included for each neighborhood. The following information about each theater is presented: the directors, the physical space, how to get there, parking, and how to obtain tickets. A table of contents and specialized information is included. Although this is an excellent source, its use in a school library would be limited. J.S.

Levinson, Nancy Smiler. *World of Her Own.* Harvey House, 1981. NP.
1
6-8 gl
6-9 il
This story is sympathetic and a good example for children of how handicapped children have to cope with problems in our society. Annie is 16 and deaf. She is sent from the protection of a special school to the confusion and sometimes ridicule of a public high school. You'll enjoy sharing with Annie her feelings and actions while making a place for herself in her new world. C.C.

Lewis, Thomas P. *Call for Mr. Sniff.* Harper and Row, 1981. NP.
2
1-2 gl
PS-3 il
Mr. Sniff, a humanized hound at work on a jigsaw puzzle, refuses to go to dinner with his brother or to a hockey game with a friend on the grounds that he's too busy. But when Bright McWoof calls for help in finding her missing Mexican tree of life, the dog detective is on his way at once. What he finds is a surprise—especially to him. The "theft" was arranged just to get him to his own birthday party. For the very young mystery fan this is an acceptable but not essential purchase. Two concerns: the deductions made on the way to the scene of the crime sometimes seem to be just thrown in; and while the dogs' heads are very well drawn, their very human hands and feet are occasionally less well done. M.S.

Littledale, Freya. *The Magic Plum Tree.* Crown Publishers, 1981. $7.95.
1
2-3 gl
2-3 il
This is a classic Buddhist fable that would delight young readers. Everything looks the same to three princes until their father shows each of them a plum tree during a different season of the year. The plot is interesting and thought provoking as it demonstrates how several people can view the same thing, all have different opinions, and still all of them can be correct. At the same time it gives readers an insight into the wonder of the changes that take place in nature as seasons change. Beautiful illustrations enhance the story and match the style of the fable. The script flows freely and the print is easy for primary children to read. L.C.

Lurie, Alison. *Fabulous Beasts.* Farrar, Straus, 1981. $9.95.
1
6-8 gl
4-8 il
Truly a "fabulous" beastiary. This collection of mythical animals could charm child or adult. The tales which provide descriptive information about each creature are engrossing. The illustrations are beautiful. P.S.

Lyons, Grant. *Mustangs, Six Shooters and Barbed Wire.* Julian Messner, 1981. NP.
1
4-5 gl
4-12 il
This book truly makes the forming of the West come alive. The relationship of one development to the other is eye-opening and educational. The facts of white man versus Indian and ranching versus farming were presented well. I feel this is a fine addition to our K-8 library. E.A.

Lyons, Grant. *Mustangs, Six Shooters and Barbed Wire.* Julian Messner, 1981. NP.
2
6-12 gl
6-12 il
I think this book is a well-written factual account of our West. It is valuable for research. L.B.

McCreight, Ruby E. *Horses.* Elsevier/Nelson Books, 1981. NP.
2
2-3 gl
PS-5 il
An informative beginning book on horses which tells what horses are called at different ages, how to tell the age of horses, pictures some of the different breeds, shows kinds of horses such as race horse, work horse, etc. The book also goes into the care and feeding of horses. It would be useful for units on animals and units on the care of animals. I feel the book would be better if illustrations were photographs rather than paintings as some of them just are not as realistic looking as they should be. However, I feel certain that the book will appeal to children because of the popular subject matter. I rated this an "a" because of the binding. C.M.

McGuire, Leslie. *This Farm is a Mess.* Elsevier/Dutton Pub. Co., 1981. $5.95.
2
PS-2 gl
PS-2 il
Animal stories are appealing to younger children and this book would be no exception. The animals are unable to stand the mess on Farmer Wood's farm any longer, so decide to do something about it. After convincing Farmer Wood to take a vacation, the animals quickly put the farm in order, but soon discover there is more to running a farm and quickly ask Farmer Wood to return home. The illustrations are bright and colorful and would be a good read-aloud book for K-1. M.C.

McLean, Susan. *Pennies for the Piper.* Farrar, 1981. $9.95.

1
6-8 gl
6-8 il

This is a story about Victoria. Though still a child she took care of her mother who was going to die of cancer soon and the both of them, though their situation was hopeless, took in a homeless child, Stubs, for a while. Then after Stubs was relocated, Mums died. Although all preparations had been made for the funeral, Victoria felt like she had the responsibility to pack their belongings, call the funeral home, buy funeral flowers, and see her mother buried. She would not involve people who might help her. She was determined to do it on her own. When part of the bus fare to her aunt's home was spent on flowers for the funeral, Victoria walked for days until her money would be sufficient for fare for the remaining trip from Minneapolis to Dubuque. By the time she arrived at her aunt's home, the funeral home director and her teacher had put all the puzzle pieces together about Victoria's situation and had informed the aunt to expect Victoria. Finally Victoria was there and in her new home. The book was very touching for me. It dealt honestly with death and Victoria's acceptance of her mother's death. There are 150 pages in the book. A.B.

Maestro, Betsy and Giulio. *Traffic: A Book of Opposites.* Crown Publishers, 1981. $8.95.

3
PS-1 gl
PS-1 il

This book uses a little car's journey from the city to the country to teach the concept of opposites. The concepts being presented are easy to understand and the print is large and easy to read. The word being defined is in bold face print to further clarify the author's text. Illustrations are simple and realistic. However, the colors are very harsh. As a result the entire book seems very cold and unappealing. L.C.

Marie, Geraldine. *The Magic Box.* Elsevier/Nelson Books, 1981. $6.25.

3
2-3 gl
2-3 il

Chrissy would like a puppy for her birthday but receives a magic box instead. She discovers that helping other people is the only way to make the magic box work and realizes that "special things do come in magic boxes" when she receives her puppy. Children wishing for a special birthday present could identify with Chrissy. This is a warm story with script that flows together very smoothly. It exposes the reader to a variety of careers by having Chrissy run errands for various stores. There are many large illustrations. However, the faces are out of proportion to the bodies and very little color is used. L.C.

Mason, Sally. *Take a Trip to China.* Franklin Watts, 1981. NP.

1
2-3 gl
2-5 i.

Excellent beginning book on China. Good photographs and a map included so children would immediately know the location of China. Covers people, government, shopping, products grown, arts, religion and some on the early history. Would be good for any group studying different cultures and countries. The only disadvantage that I see to the book is that there is no pronunciation key to the unfamiliar words. C.M.

Mazer, Norma Fox. *Taking Terri Mueller.* Avon Flare, 1981. $2.25.

1
9-12 gl
9-12 il

Fourteen-year-old Terri Mueller begins to question her life with her father and in her search for her roots, discovers that her mother is still alive and Terri had been kidnapped by her father. A well written book. Excellent portrayal of adolescent thoughts and feelings. Good relationship with father. C.B.

Merriam, Eve. *A Word or Two With You.* Atheneum, 1981. $8.95.

3
6-8 gl
6-12 il

I do not feel the poetry fits into any categories that I would use. Junior and senior high students who study creative poetry would enjoy these. There are 32 pages in the book. L.L.

Milcsik, Margie. *Cupid Computer.* Atheneum, 1981. $8.95.

1
6-12 gl
6-12 il

Toni Moretti's dialogue in this book as a junior high student anticipating a computer date is a humorous account of the thought patterns of a typical junior high student. She is an imaginative young lady with a flair for the dramatic. Her excitement and exotic preparation to ensure her dream date climax into an interesting conclusion. Toni handles the results with amusing teenage aplomb. This was a funny story to read. The main character, especially, was well developed and the plot didn't drag for a minute. K.F.

Miles, Betty. *The Secret Life of the Underwear Champ.* Alfred A. Knopf, 1981. NP.

2
2-5 gl
2-5 il

This is a true-to-life story of a young boy who is discovered by a TV model agency. He becomes famous as an actor in commercials but not before he encounters many hilarious problems. Betty Miles makes the main character, Larry Pryor, seem quite real. Primary students should be able to relate to him and his problems. S.R.

Miller, Alice P. *The Mouse Family's Blueberry Pie.* Elsevier/Nelson Books, 1981. $6.75.

3
PS-2 gl
PS-2 il

Mother and Father Mouse must go searching for more food, so little Ella has to do the cooking for her baby sister and brother. When Ella's culinary efforts prove disastrous, her little brother Steven takes over and bakes a blueberry pie while Ella goes to the workshop and creates her own invention. Although the characters are allowed to make use of their talents, Ella's could receive more attention. As the title indicates, Steven's pie is unfairly made more the focus of this story. Also, he is never reprimanded for his ill-mannered behavior, which is slightly offensive. The large, brightly colored illustrations are excellent and appealing to small children. J.M.

Miller, Elizabeth and Jane Cohen. *Cat and Dog and the ABC's.* Franklin Watts, 1981. $5.90.

2
PS-3 gl
PS-3 il

Dog wants to learn to read. To assist him, Cat lets him study her letter book. But alas, poor Dog can't seem to remember one letter from the next. Disheartened, he goes to bed and dreams of a wonderful journey which helps him learn the alphabet. Another alphabet book, Dog learns the alphabet through alliterative sentences. (An ancient aviator flew him to Asia.) The illustrations are appealing and will catch the interest of young children. The locations that Dog visits, while all real, will be very exotic to children but provide food for an advanced geography lesson. P.S.

Miller, Elizabeth and Jane Cohen. *Cat and Dog Have a Parade.* Franklin Watts, 1981. $5.90.

1
PS-1 gl
PS-1 il

Dog is to be Grand Marshall of the animal parade, but his role of leader is threatened by his inability to know his left foot from his right. Cat comes to the rescue as she always does with a simple solution to the problem. Charming illustrations and a short story help to teach an important concept to the young reader. P.S.

Miller, Tom. *On the Border; Portraits of America's Southwestern Frontier.* Harper & Row, 1981. $12.95.

1
9-12 gl
9-12 il

While this book may have limited appeal to most Montanans, those who do read it will be delighted with Tom Miller's journey from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean via the U.S.-Mexican border. This is a friendly excursion, introducing us to the real people who live and work in this area. Miller looks on both sides of the fence to provide readers with a view of two cultures which, for better or worse, co-exist. Each chapter deals with a separate aspect of life or location. The chapter headings themselves provide a clue to the tone one finds inside (On the Borderfront, Discreets of Laredo, Rosa's Cantina). Many of the problems Miller discusses here are serious and are treated as such, but for the most part this is a kind look at the unique culture which has developed "on the border." Includes maps, bibliography, index. S.R.

Moeri, Louise. *Save Queen of Sheba.* E.P. Dutton, 1981. $8.98.

1
9-12 gl
9-12 il

This is an adventure story about two pioneer children separated from their parents in a wilderness situation and their struggle to survive. The boy, aged 12, shows maturity and patience in dealing with his spoiled 6-year-old sister. The description of the massacre is very vivid, but is tempered with thoughts by King David on how the Indians felt about "intruders" on their land. It is a story which would be enjoyed by 9-12 year-olds. M.C.

Mooser, Stephen. *Funnyman's First Case.* Franklin Watts, 1981. NP.

3
PS-3 gl
PS-3 il

This is a rather humorous story of a waiter who enjoys making people laugh. His slapstick humor causes him many problems; one of which is to lose his job. He is, though, reinstated after he captures a crook by using his jokes. Most primary children will enjoy this book and I'm sure tell the jokes over and over. S.R.

Morris, Wright. *Will's Boy: A Memoir.* Harper & Row, 1981. $11.95.

2
9-12 gl
9-12 il

Wright Morris' mother died when he was less than a week old; being raised by his father provides much of the basis for this fond remembrance of his boyhood in Omaha and Chicago. His adventures as a child, his stint at hard labor on an uncle's farm in Texas, his days at a Chicago YMCA, a memorable journey to California with a motley crew of travelers gave him much of the material he later used as the basis for his novels and essays. So often the people he knew and lived with appeared as characters in his writings. Using excerpts from his previous works, Morris illustrates how he transferred his life, often with little or no change in setting, names and/or situations to fiction. While the book is a well written reminiscence, it would probably appeal more to readers who are familiar with Morris' other works. S.R.

Nastick, Sharon. *Mr. Radagast Makes an Unexpected Journey.* Thomas Y. Crowell, 1981. NP.

3
4-5 gl
6-8 il

This book will appeal to students in grades 5-8 because they may have wanted to wish a monotonous teacher out of existence. In this fantasy a class does just that. They are also able to think out of existence two classmates to find Mr. Radagast and then think the three back into existence just before the class is over. The story line kept me interested to find out how it would end. However, the middle of the story drags. The illustrations are black and white. The book has 85 pages in a library binding. A.B.

Neal, Harry Edward. *Before Columbus Who Discovered America.* Julian Messner, 1981. NP.

NR

Content inappropriate for schools. Chapter on Mormonism precludes this. This just repeats what is already in social studies series. J.D.

Norton, Andre and Dorothy Madlee. *Star Ka'ats and the Winged Warriors.* Walker and Company, 1981. $8.95.

2
4-6 gl
4-8 il

Third in the science fiction series starring Jim, Elly Mae and the superior race of ka'ats. Some of the earth cats have trouble adjusting to life on Zimmorrah so they all go on an interplanetary journey to another ka'at colony where giant insects have evolved. Bees the size of large dogs and wasps bigger than turkeys set out to destroy them. Children will enjoy these giant creatures and will sympathize with the earth cats' dilemma, but the action and danger that the authors try to portray just doesn't materialize—it leaves the reader waiting for something really exciting to happen, but it never does. But easy science fiction is hard to find and if your students have enjoyed the others in the series, then purchase is justifiable. C.W.

Olney, Ross R. *Listen to Your Car! An Easy Guide to Identifying Car Trouble.* Walker Publishing Co., Inc,, 1981. NP.
1 This book consists of 80 pages and nine chapters. Plenty of high quality illustrations are used
9-12 gl throughout. The text is clearly written and sprinkled with lots of real life examples of how to identify
9-Adult il specific car troubles through a variety of typical sounds. Knowing how your car usually sounds and being aware of how it is performing through concentrated "listening" is stressed. The book closes with a laundry list of the most popular service station rip-offs. C.H.

Parenteau, Shirley. *Jelly and the Spaceboat.* Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1981. $6.95.
2 Jelly dares his city-bred friend Rich, who is always bragging about San Francisco, to stow-away on a
9-12 gl boat if he has the nerve. A strange journey on a strange craft with a strange crew awaits them both.
9-12 il This book would be satisfactory as an introduction to science fiction stories as the story is not long and would appeal to some in this respect. However, I felt the plot somewhat simplistic and slow-moving and feel that there are more interesting science-fiction books available. M.C.

Parker, Nancy Winslow. *The President's Car.* Thomas Y. Crowell, 1981. $8.79.
1 What is a phaeton? A landau? A bubbletop? What were elliptical springs? This book presents the
6-12 gl vehicles used by each of our nation's leaders. There are detailed drawings and explanations. Interesting
4-12 il tidbits (Which man was arrested for speeding as he rode through the capital?) bring the Presidents to life. This book would be great for a school library to introduce the Presidents as people. J.N.

Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. *Hunters and Hunted.* Holiday House, 1981. $7.95.
1 A very accurate and correct three-part book of pursuers and pursued in the animal world. Children will
4-8 gl enjoy pictures of the animals and be led to read more about the animal. The index, picture credits and
2-8 il suggested reading list were good. This could be an excellent reference book. J.D.

Pellowski, Anne. *Willow Wind Farm: Betsy's Story.* Philomel Books, 1981. $8.95.
3 Anne Pellowski's sincerity and knowledge of her subject matter are the highlights of this book. Nothing
4-5 gl written in this book could be termed offensive, and indeed there are standards for life which Utopia
None il would be hard put to equal. Written from the perspective of a seven-year-old girl, it portrays an idyllic existence in which all humans, adults and children, talk and act as seven-year-old children on their best behavior: loving, polite, obedient, safety conscious, and very self-assured. This secure, happy period in the heroine's life is indeed an objective which a warm and caring society should applaud, but it is hardly relative to today's school population. Perhaps, in an ethnic and rural area similar to the one portrayed in the book some interest might be evoked. V.H.

Philip, Curtis. *Invasion of the Brain Sharpeners.* Alfred A. Knopf, 1981. NP.
2 This is a mystery, adventure story of a young boy trying to stop alien beings from taking over his class-
2-5 gl mates' minds and sending them to a newly discovered planet. Michael Fairlie, the main character and
2-5 il hero, saves the day and everything is soon back to normal. This is an exciting and fast moving story that will be of special interest to 4th and 5th graders. (The story concerns Mr. Browser's 5th grade class.) If read aloud, it should be interesting to younger students. S.R.

Pinkwater, Daniel. *Tooth-Gnasher Superflash.* Four Winds Press, 1981. $9.95.
1 Excellent bold color illustrations which should appeal to the readers. It is a humorous entertaining book.
2-3 gl The Popsnorkle family sets out on the adventure of buying a new family car. The car they decide to test
2-3 il drive is the Tooth-Gnasher Superflash. With the push of a button the car is transformed into all sorts of animals, much to the amazement of the salesman. A fun reading book for all ages. C.M.

Pinkwater, Daniel. *The Worms of Kukumlima.* E.P. Dutton, 1981. $10.25.
1 What a great story! A reader could actually feel he is living the parts because they are very descriptive.
4-8 gl This could be used for social studies or science. Not everything is true but it is easy reading and very
2-8 il interesting right to the end. Takes place in Africa and is mainly about earthworms. L.L.

Purdy, Susan. *Christmas Gifts.* Franklin Watts, 1981. NP.
1 Gives good how-to descriptions, various measurements, necessary equipment, and very clear direc-
4-12 il tions on combining ingredients. This is especially good for the Christmas season. L.L.

Putnam, Alice. *The Whistling Swans.* Julian Messner, 1981. NP.
1 This is a very excellent book. It will hold the children's interest and they will learn much about the wild whistling swan. It teaches about the prices we pay in hunting wildlife in this country. It is a story of a whole family of swans, told as if they were relating it, giving a different insight. Excellent pen and ink drawings. J.D.

Rabe, Berniece. *The Balancing Girl.* E.P. Dutton, 1981. $10.25.
1 The story begins with Margaret in a wheelchair competing with non-handicapped students to do her
PS-3 gl best. Her best was balancing things. Another boy in the class, Tommy, says everything she does is
PS-5 il "easy." To raise money for the carnival she comes up with dominoe maze—the winner gets to knock them down. Tommy's name is drawn to knock down Margaret's maze and he tells her in his immature manner that he's not a bit sorry. Margaret's not sorry either, but for a different reason. She raised the most money in the carnival. T.M.

Radley, Gail. *Nothing Stays the Same Forever.* Crown, 1981. $8.95.
2 Carrie is a girl in high school who has recently lost her mother to cancer. Her older sister, Phyllis, is ad-
6-12 gl justing well to her mother's death and her father's new found interest in another woman. Mrs. Steb-
6-12 il bins, a widowed neighbor, offers plenty of lemonade, an open door, and a concerned, special interest whenever Carrie feels the need. It is through this relationship that Carrie gains acceptance of the constant changes taking place in all their lives. This is a well-developed, heart-warming story where each member of the family and close friends reach out to help someone in need. At the end of the story Carrie has grown emotionally stronger with the changes in her life and will probably be more accepting of the changes to come. K.F.

Rayner, Mary. *Mrs. Pig's Bulk Buy.* Atheneum, 1981. NP.
1 Mrs. Pig had a domestic problem. All ten of her little piglets loved ketchup so much that they demanded
PS-3 gl it on everything they ate. As she traveled the supermarket aisle on shopping day, Mrs. Pig thought of
PS-3 il a solution to this crisis. Purchasing ketchup in bulk she went home and prepared an interesting menu. There was ketchup served cold from a tureen for dinner. For tea there was ketchup on a half slice of bread. Supper was hot ketchup soup. Poor piglets, could things have been worse? Breakfast the next day proved to be cornflakes and ketchup. By evening the piglets had lost all interest in their once loved food. The story was most enjoyable. If only the author would not have concluded with the moralistic warning to children that they should be careful with their ketchup consumption or they might turn as pink as the piglets did from their overindulgence. P.S.

Reed, Allison. *Genesis, The Story of Creation.* Schocken, 1981. $10.95.
2 Allison Reed's illustrations for the King James version of the Creation story are for the most part quite
4-8 gl stunning. One should be aware that Adam and Eve are presented "au naturel," and the anthropomor-
1-5 il phic sun and moon are inconsistent with the quality of the rest of the art. The King James version of the Bible is certainly the most poetic, and this book might be used for young people as a language arts enhancement, or in conjunction with other creation myths in a language/social studies unit. Probably the most appropriate use of the book is in church schools and family life for those who choose to support the Biblical verson of creation, while use in public schools would require presenting multiple possibilities for the origin of life. N.C.

Reisberg, Ken. *Coin Fun.* Franklin Watts, 1981. NP.
1 This book would be excellent for use in a unit on money. It gives a small history of our coins and some
4-8 gl special items entitled "Did you know that?" throughout the book. Most of the tricks are easy and fun
All il and would be enjoyed by all—including adults. L.L.

Rydberg, Viktor. *The Christmas Tomten.* Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1981. $9.95.
1 This is the story of a little boy touring the countryside at Christmas distributing gifts with the Tomten,
4-5 gl or Swedish folktale. He learns that all peoples' deeds are weighed on the scales of goodness. At the
All il end he awakens, like Scrooge, to realize he has much to be happy about. This book could easily be adapted as a play for a Christmas program. The illustrations are beautiful suggestions for background scenery. J.N.

Reed, Jonathon. *Do Armadillos Come in Houses?* Atheneum, 1981. $8.95.
1 This book cleverly presents problems involving monsters, being awake at night, germs, relatives and
2-5 gl strangers, shots, little brothers and sisters, dogs, bugs, vegetables, doctors, dentists, math, and
1-5 il kisses. The author presents the usual solution (which normally doesn't work) and an imaginative solution, which will make everyone happy and able to get along better. S.J.

Rockwell, Anne. *Thump Thump Thump!* E.P. Dutton, 1981. $8.25.
1 This very easy beginning reader is a variant of the English folk tale "Teeny-Tiny." An old woman,
PS-1 gl digging in her garden, finds a large hairy toe which she puts in a box in her house. After dark the Thing
PS-1 il comes after it. Thump thump thump! Fun and only slightly scary. M.S.

Rockwell, Anne. *When We Grow Up.* E.P. Dutton, 1981. $10.25.
1 This is a book of careers. It is written simply and has excellent pictures for each career. This book can
PS-3 gl be used with K-1 on a unit on careers or along with the social science curriculum. Older primary stu-
PS-3 il dents (2-3) might just enjoy reading about what some children want to be when they grow up. S.R.

Ross, David. *Space Monster.* Walker & Co., 1981. NP.
3 This is a rather silly story about Gorp, a space creature with poor eyesight and his encounter with the
2-3 gl inhabitants from the planet Braino. Determined to capture Gorp and dissect him, the Brainos launch
1-3 il one violent attack after another only to be outwitted each time by the monster. Then with calamity about to befall the planet, the Brainos realize that Gorp is their only salvation. They change their tactics and plead for his assistance. The monster saves the planet and is a hero. The monster is happy, the Brainos are happy and the reader is left wondering "Is that all there is?" P.S.

Roy, Ron. *The Great Frog Swap.* Pantheon, 1981. NP.
1 Two brothers try to trick their friends into trading frogs to win the jumping contest. Their trades back-
4-5 gl fire on them when the frog they traded away wins. This book could inspire real frog contests. The story
2-5 il could be a starting point for discussing fairness and a "deal is a deal." J.N.

Roy, Ron. *Nightmare Island.* E.P. Dutton, 1981. NP.

1 This book could be used for a safety unit on fire danger, camping, survival when stranded and family
4-8 gl relationships. This is fast and enjoyable reading. Also, the vocabulary is basic to most students at age
3-8 il 8-9. L.L.

Rutland, Jonathan. *Israel.* Franklin Watts, 1981. NP.

1 The photographs in this book are clear, colorful, and well-done. The text is informative with vocabulary
1-3 gl appropriate for K-3 readers. The old and the new are blended well together with many informative,
1-3 il interesting facts about modern-day Israel included. The book includes an index. With this area of the world so much in the news currently, I feel this would be a valuable addition to any library. M.C.

Sachs, Marilyn. *Hello . . . Wrong Number.* E.P. Dutton, 1981. $9.75.

2 This is a true-to-life fiction story. A teenage girl's wrong number proves to be an interesting problem.
6-8 gl Angie, trying to reach Jim McCone on the telephone, gets another Jim by mistake and reveals certain
6-8 il things she'd rather have kept secret. Quite a relationship develops between these two teenagers. Most upper intermediate grade students who are just becoming involved in the boy/girl relationships will find this book to their liking. S.R.

Sadler, Catherine Edwards. *Two Chinese Families.* Atheneum, 1981. $9.95.

1 This book describes the modern life of two families in China. They live in the same town, are close to
4-5 gl the same age, and are friends. The book compares and contrasts the families in regard to jobs, places
4-5 il they live, outside interests, schools attended by the children, and the daily routines. The book also describes the recent history of China and the purpose of Communism for China. The black and white photographs are a whole page in size with almost every other page used for a photo. There are 69 pages in the book. A.B.

Sanders, Ruth Manning. *Cats and Creatures.* E.P. Dutton, 1981. $9.25.

1 The stories are entertaining and they mark the difference between good and evil. Children should
4-5 gl champion the heroes and feel good about the just endings. This collection of fairy tales is refreshing
2-5 il in that they're different from the ordinary. E.A.

Sanders, Ruth Manning. *A Book of Cats and Creatures.* E.P. Dutton, 1981. $9.25.

1 I was all set not to care for this book nor to enjoy it but the author's storytelling ability won out and I
6-12 gl did enjoy the stories—some more than others. L.B.
6-12 il

Sattler, Helen Roney. *The Smallest Witch.* Elsevier/Nelson Books, 1981. $6.75.

NR Wendy, a young witch, gets her chance to sweep cobwebs one Halloween when an older witch has a
None problem with her broom. As usual, she has trouble keeping her mind on her job: she joins a group of
None trick-or-treaters, fills her cobweb bag so full of candy she can't get off the ground, and loses her cat. But coincidentally she finds a barn just full of cobwebs (for which she trades her candy) and so returns on time with a fine harvest. Saccharine sweet and didactic. M.S.

Scheffer, Victor B. *The Amazine Sea Otter.* Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981. NP.

NR It tells of the trials and tribulations of sea otters in their fight for survival. It tells of the efforts put
6-8 gl forth by humans to find out all they can of the sea otter's needs and habits. From this knowledge
6-8 il they hope to help the sea otter to increase and live a happy carefree life. It tells in detail the mating of the sea otters which I feel could cause concern in school libraries. G.L.

Scott, Sally. *The Elf King's Bride.* Julia MacRae Books, 1981. NP.

2 The mystical story takes place in king-queen time. It's the familiar story of pre-arranged marriage to
4-8 gl unite kingdoms. A web of mystery begins with the dark entangled Fir Forest where the Prince (on his
5-9 il way to marry the Princess) first feels some mysterious "being" controls him. Through the course of marriage activities, the Princess is struck with a mysterious ailment that is incurable and day-by ay pulls her closer to death. A talking raven soon directs the Prince to the solution which lies only in the realm of Elves living in the mysterious Fir Forest. Barely escaping death, the Prince overcomes this evil force only with the help of the Raven. Again, as in old, they all live happily ever after. I enjoyed it; I think lots of romantics would enjoy it. T.M.

Selsam, Millicent E. and Joyce Hunt. *A First Look at Dogs.* Walker & Co., 1981. $7.95.

1 This book gives the reader a brief but factual look at the dog family. It discusses how to observe the
2-3 gl differences between "wild dogs" and "tame dogs" and explains how dogs are classified. The material
2-3 il is well organized and easy for a young reader to understand. The text discusses differences and similarities to look for in classifying dogs and follows up with black and white illustrations. L.C.

Selsam, Millicent E. and Joyce Hunt. *A First Look at Horses.* Walker Publishing, 1981. $7.95.

1 The illustrations are very good, the text is easily read, and the vocabulary is suitable to lower elemen-
1-3 gl tary grades. It is a very early book on horses. It is an accurate, scientific point of view; not fantasy. J.D.
1-3 il

Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman. *Nate the Great and the Missing Key.* Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1981. NP.

1 Young detectives will enjoy this story of Nate the Great, master sleuth and pancake authority, and his
2-3 gl dog Sludge as they solve another puzzling mystery. Annie can't give a birthday party for Fang unless
2-3 il Nate finds her lost house key. But to do that, Nate the Great must solve the riddle of Rosamond's strange poem. The author combines some of children's favorite topics—birthday parties, dogs, and a mystery—in this delightful story. Any child afraid of dogs could identify with and sympathize with Nate. The text and print are easy for primary readers to follow. Illustrations are very appealing and compliment the story well. L.C.

Sheffer, H.R. *Two at the Net.* Crestwood House, 1981. NP.

2 This is a good story for girls interested in sports—especially tennis. It is fast, easy reading for recrea-
4-8 gl tion. L.B.
4-8 il

Sheffer, H.R. *Two at the Net.* Crestwood House, 1981. NP.

1 The plot, characters and style are good. The story is convincing and carefully worked out to an honest
4-5 gl conclusion. It is entertaining without being moralistic. The decisions and sacrifices Dee makes are in-
4-12 il spiring. The story is realistic and the characters real. E.A.

Shiefman, Vicky. *M is for Move.* E.P. Dutton, 1981. NP.

1 This is a different approach to the traditional alphabet book. It presents an illustrative action word for
PS-1 gl each consonant in the alphabet. The clear photographs are black and white with live children demon-
PS-1 il strating the action word given. The text would be appealing to younger children in that an "action" can be associated with the letter and sound rather than an object which is usually associated with a letter and a sound. I believe this would be a worthwhile addition to any primary library. M.C.

Simon, Seymour. *Einstein Anderson.* Viking Press, 1981. NP.

1 The book is a collection of happenings in Einstein's day-by-day world. The book would be very good in
4-6 gl conjunction with science and also for language. Einstein uses many puns throughout the book. I read
4-6 il this to my students and they really enjoyed it. L.L.

Simon, Seymour. *Einstein Anderson Tells a Comet's Tale.* Viking Press, 1981. $7.50.

1 This is number four in the series about the young scientist "Einstein" Anderson. It offers ten mysteries
4-8 gl to be solved using science. Einstein solves everyday problems such as how to get ketchup out of a
4-8 il bottle and how to build a winning soap box racer. A lot of information is packed into a short, easy-to-read book. This book could help kids become more aware of the scientific principles at work all around them. J.N.

Simon, Seymour. *Mad Scientists, Wierd Doctors, & Time Travelers in Movies, TV & Books.* J.B. Lippincott, 1981. $7.89.

1 In this book the author surveys sources and subjects mentioned in the title. Also included in the book
6-8 gl are the topics invisible men, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, strange children, growing and shrinking, and
4-8 il mysterious powers. Under each topic, titles are summarized and reviewed. The reviews give the reader an idea of the quality in the story, acting, and special effects. Other information given is the producer and year produced. This book is factual and entertaining. Browsers will enjoy the pictures. The index of actors, titles, and characters makes the book useful to answer reference questions. The book is from the Erie Series and contains 57 pages in a library binding. A.B.

Snyder, Carol. *Ike & Mama and the Once-in-a-Life Movie.* Coward, McCann & Geoghagen, 1981. $7.95.

2 This story reminds me of *Soup* series by R.N. Peck. Although the reading level is about grades 4-5,
4-5 gl the interest in historical family situations would cross all the way to grandmother. The rural audience
All il gets a first-hand acquaintance with the city kid of 1920. I especially liked the sketches by Charles Robinson. The illustrations were realistic and appealing. Ms. Snyder's inclusion of the Afterword put on a nice ending note. I recommend the book. M.P.

Snyder, Louis L. *World War II.* Franklin Watts, 1981. NP.

1 This book spotlights the important events and people of WWII. It is a simplified, but thorough chrono-
9-12 gl logical accounting of the events leading up to WWII as well as important events during the war and a
9-12 il section on the aftermath and costs of war. The terminology is concise and clear. Authentic photographs are used to illustrate specific events and people which add to the book's appeal. Simple maps are also given throughout the book. A listing of WWII dates is given in the back of the book as well as a glossary and an index. This is a well-done book on a subject which holds fascination for the 9-12 year-old student. M.C.

Sullivan, George. *Sadat: The Man Who Changed Mid-East History.* Walker & Co., 1981. $8.95.
1
6-9 gl
6-9 il
This biography sets the scene by first giving the reader a brief overview of the beliefs and conditions existing in Egypt. The author presents us with useful background information and then traces the rise of Sadat's power, from his poor childhood to the signing of the Camp David Accords. Sadat is presented as a peacemaker, but not as the savior of his people. Problems in Egypt continued to exist, but the book emphasizes the groundwork Sadat had laid. One ends this biography hoping the vision of peace and memorial Sadat was planning will come to be. A timely book, useful not only for social studies reports, but also as a good, interesting, understandable biography young history fans will enjoy. It includes an index, photographs, and maps. C.W.

Sweeney, James B. *True Spy Stories.* Franklin Watts, 1981. NP.
2
4-8 gl
4-8 il
The book contains six chapters, each a separate story. The action moves fast in each story and the reader is constantly guessing as to how it's going to end. This reader was wrong almost every time. The stories are intriguing and keep the reader's attention throughout. S.J.

Tallon, Robert. *The Alligator's Song.* Parents Magazine, 1981. NP.
1
PS-3 gl
PS-3 il
One stormy night Eddie hears and sees an alligator singing a sad song in his garden. Although mother tells him he should stop reading scary books, Eddie knows that the alligator is really there. With planning, he manages to help his friend solve his sad problem and return to his alligator home. No sooner is this problem solved than Eddie hears a new voice calling to him from the garden. When Eddie tells his mother about the elephant in the garden, her answer is predictable. The cartoon-like illustrations and the light story combine wonderfully to create a warm atmosphere illustrating the child's penchant for imagining. A nice addition to the easy-to-read section of your library. P.S.

Tannen, Mary. *The Wizard Children of Finn.* Alfred A. Knopf, 1981. NP.
1
4-8 gl
4-8 il
Ten-year-old Fiona and her younger brother Bran are transported back in time via an old book found in their uncle's library to ancient Ireland. There they accompany the boy Finn (apparently the legendary Finn McCool), recording his adventures and experiencing the hardships and rituals of the life of the time. My one quibble with the book is that both the cover picture and the jacket copy lead the reader to expect more supernatural characters and incidents than are to be found in the story. In reality, the only fantasy element is the time transfer; once the children reach Ireland, their adventures are those one might expect for children of that time—fantastic only in their unfamiliarity to Fiona and Bran. M.S.

Thompson, Paul. *Nutrition.* Franklin Watts, 1981. NP.
2
2-5 gl
2-6 il
This book could be used in a health series. It gives information on basic nutrition from why we eat to good nutrition. The children will appreciate the colorful illustrations. The book contains an index and a glossary. J.D.

Turkle, Brinton. *Do Not Open.* E.P. Dutton, 1981. $11.50.
1
1-5 gl
1-5 il
The book begins with the story of a little old lady who collects things off the beach after storms and a nice cat who is afraid of storms. After an all night storm, she goes to the beach to see what she can collect. She and the cat find a bottle marked "Do Not Open." A voice inside says, "I'm the voice of a child locked up by a magician." Falling into the trap, the woman opens the bottle to discover a nasty monster inside. Not to be outdone, the lady tricks him into becoming a mouse and the cat eats him! This is a very good story with beautiful pictures. T.M.

Turner, Stephen C. *Great Beginnings: Olympics to Super Bowl to World Series to . . .* Julian Messner, 1981. NP.
1
4-5 gl
4-8 il
This book traces the beginning of sports from the Olympic games in 393 A.D. to the present competition in amateur and professional sports. Sports covered are the Olympics, football, and basketball. The aspect most dealt with is the evolution of the national championship games such as the Rose Bowl and the Super Bowl in the area of football. The index and factual information make the book good for reference, but the book was enjoyable to read in its entirety. The black and white photos are interesting and well-captioned. The book contains 64 pages. A.B.

Waldron, Ann. *The Bluebury Collection.* E.P. Dutton, 1981. NP.
3
6-9 gl
6-9 il
This book would not be understood by most children under 7th or 8th grades without a good deal of explanation on the rackets game. I would not recommend it below 8th grade. The vocabulary is on the 5-6 grade level. L.L.

Walters, Helen B. *No Luck for Lincoln.* Abingdon, 1981. $7.95.
2
3-5 gl
4-5 il
This book is on the life of young Abraham Lincoln. It tells about the trials and tribulations of living on a very harsh frontier. It shows the beginnings of a possibility of wanting to be President. It could show a child there is always a chance to improve lifestyle even when things look the darkest. This is historical fiction and a different age of Lincoln than most books. G.L.

Ward, Brian R. *The Brain and the Nervous System.* Franklin Watts, 1981. NP.
1
4-8 gl
4-8 il
This is an excellent non-fiction book. The illustrations are great and enhance the information. It would make an excellent reference book. The index and glossary are good but I wish further reading would have been suggested. J.D.

Ward, Brian R. *The Eye and Seeing.* Franklin Watts, 1981. NP.
2 This is an excellent book on eyes, but would be hard to use below junior high because of the vocabu-
8-12 gl lary. It would be a very good book for reference and I would like to have a complete series on the human
6-12 il body. L.L.

Wolfe, Robert L. *The Truck Book.* Carolrhoda Books, Inc., 1981. NP.
1 The photographs and captions describe 13 trucks including a tow truck, dump truck, semi, cement
2-3 gl mixer, logging truck and a crane. It has a few hard words for second grade, but there are good factual
2-4 il pictures and information. G.L.

Yolen, Jane. *The Boy Who Spoke Chimp.* Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1981. NP.
2 A young misunderstood boy and a chimp become friends after a bad earthquake in California. The book
2-3 gl tells how the boy learns to communicate with the chimp and how they survive. It has a good plot that
3-5 il has good characterization and follows through to a logical conclusion. Borders on science fiction with a chimp that communicates with actions. G.L.

Yolen, Jane. *Shirlick Holmes and the Case of the Wandering Wardrobe.* Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1981. $7.95.
2 As the title indicates, this is a detective book about a girl. Shirli tells the story of how she and her three
4-5 gl girlfriends solve the mystery that the town chief of police can't figure out. The story moves quickly
2-5 il and the reader wonders exactly how Shirli is going to get out of the wardrobe without getting caught. There are a few black and white illustrations that add interest to the story. S.J.

Yolen, Jane. *Uncle Lemon's Spring.* E.P. Dutton, 1981. $9.25.
1 The witching man finds a spring for Uncle Lemon and Letty. When the preacher wants to bless the
4-8 gl spring, the adventures begin. This book uses the colloquial language expected of Appalachia. The
4-8 il scraggly drawings fit the characters and settings. The story is humorous and realistic. It reminds me of *Where the Lilies Bloom.* J.N.

Zimmerman, Andrea Griffing. *The Riddle Zoo.* E.P. Dutton, 1981. $9.25.
1 This book is a collection of riddles about animals. I've met very few children who don't like riddles so
2-8 gl I'm sure this would be a popular book for grades 2-8. The illustrations are appropriate for each riddle
2-8 il and could only be improved by having them in color instead of black and white. S.R.